



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FOIA Service Center

March 4, 2019

Austin Evers  
American Oversight  
1030 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite B255  
Washington DC 20005

RE: FOIA Request No. 19-00916-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated February 14, 2019 and received in this office on February 15, 2019. Your request was forwarded to the appropriate office to search for documents that may be responsive to your request.

You requested:

All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (a) Deputy Secretary Mitchell “Mick” Zais or any person communicating on his behalf and (b) any of the individuals or entities listed below:

1. Team IA (including but not limited to any person using an email address ending in eamia.com)
2. William Lowndes III
3. Campus Technologies LLC (including but not limited to any person using an email address ending in campustechnologies.com)
4. David Adelman
5. Andrew Marshall
6. Super Duper Inc. (including but not limited to any person using an email address ending in superduperinc.com)
7. Webber Ventures
8. Thomas or Sharon Webber
9. Joe Edens Jr.

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar entries) between (a) Deputy Secretary Mitchell “Mick” Zais or any person communicating on his behalf and (b) any person representing Newberry College, including but not limited to any person using an email address ending in newberry.edu.

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar entries) between (a) Deputy Secretary Mitchell “Mick” Zais or any person communicating on his behalf and (b) any of the individuals or entities listed below:

1. Jim DeMint
2. Citizens for Self-Governance (including but not limited to any person using an email address ending in @selfgovern.com)
3. Conservative Partnership Institute (including but not limited to any person using an email address ending in @conservativepartnership.org)
4. Sen. Lindsey Graham or any member of his staff (including but not limited to any person using an email address ending in lgraham.senate.gov)
5. Sen. Tim Scott or any member of his staff (including but not limited to any person using an email address ending in scott.senate.gov)
6. Any person using an email address ending in @mail.house.gov
7. Sally Atwater
8. Any person representing the office of the governor of South Carolina (including but not limited to any person using an email address ending in @governor.sc.gov)
9. Any person representing the South Carolina Department of Education (including but not limited to any person using an email address ending in @ed.sc.gov)

All final decision memoranda, directives, guidance, or other documents reflecting final decisions regarding any reorganization or restructuring of the Department of Education or any of its offices, including any redistribution of funds within the Department associated with any restructuring.

American Oversight requests that Education produce all such records drafted by, signed or otherwise approved by, sent from, sent to, or copied to Deputy Secretary Mitchell “Mick” Zais, or otherwise located in the physical or electronic files of Deputy Secretary Zais.

Please provide all responsive records from May 16, 2018, through the date of search.

Staff from the Office of the Deputy Secretary’s office informed the FOIA Service Center (FSC) that after a search of their files, they were unable to locate any documents that were responsive to your request.

The Department has now completed the processing of your request and we hope that this response is satisfactory. You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department’s FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to appeals or litigation.

They can be contacted by:

Mail	FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Chief Privacy Officer U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7C132 Washington, DC 20202-4536	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road Room 2510 College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail	<a href="mailto:robert.wehausen@ed.gov">robert.wehausen@ed.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:OGIS@nara.gov">OGIS@nara.gov</a>
Phone	202-205-0733	301-837-1996; toll free at 1-877-684-6448
Fax	202-401-0920	301-837-0348

Lastly, you have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the address below, 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Using the services described above does not affect your right or the deadline to file an appeal. Your appeal must be in writing and must include detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal; it should be accompanied by this letter, a copy of your initial letter of request, and any documentation that serves as evidence or supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in making an administrative determination on your appeal.

Appeals may be submitted using the on-line form available at  
[www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf).

E-mail: [EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov)  
Fax: 202-401-0920  
Mail: FOIA Appeals Office  
Office of the Chief Privacy Officer  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W106  
Washington, DC 20202-4536

Sincerely,

*Robert Wehausen*

Robert Wehausen  
Team Lead, FOIA Service Center